

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 19 and 22 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 18 and 19 are amended. Claim 22 is new. Claims 20 and 21 were previously cancelled. The support for the amendments to the claims and new claim 22 can be found in at least in paragraph [0027] and Figures 3 to 10. The Applicant submits that no new subject matter is added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bennett (US 6,056,642).

Regarding claim rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §102, the Applicant submits that Bennett does not teach all the limitations of the amended claims. Thus, the allowance of the discussed claims is respectfully requested, based on the following arguments:

Bennett teaches a mechanical reel line game (as illustrated in figure 1) wherein upon the event of each the three reels stopping on a "7" symbol, the gaming machine associates each of the "7" symbol with a randomly selected color. Bennett describes that the color may appear on the display (column 3, lines 41-43) or be applied to the "7" symbol by backlighting it using colored light bulbs or incident light (column 3, lines 47-51). If all three "7" symbols are randomly changed to red, the player is awarded a jackpot, while three "7" symbols of another color or mixed colors result in lesser prizes (column 3, Lines 43-47). Thus, the statuses of the three "7" symbols are not "displayed according to a predetermined order". In fact, there is no order or hierarchy to the colors in Bennett.

The Applicant submits that Bennett does not teach the claim limitation of "*operating a meter displayed as at least three different statuses of an evolving symbol displayed according to a predetermined order*".

Furthermore, the Applicant submits that the claim limitation of new claim 22 which states that "*the meter is for measuring a value and further wherein the at least three statuses depend at least in part on the value of the meter*" is not found in the cited prior art.

It is submitted therefore that claims 1 to 19 and 22 are not anticipated by the cited prior art and thus are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 1 to 19 and 22 at an early date is solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning these remarks or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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